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CIA renewing ties with universities

The CIA, for two decades estranged from American campuses, says it has returned to U.S. universities to seek professors' advice on intelligence matters.

But the budding relationship between the two institutions raised concerns among educators and legislators that academic research may be compromised, the New York Times reported yesterday. About one-fourth of the CIA's intelligence estimates are now reviewed by professors and other experts, up from virtually nothing only a few years ago, officials said.

"What we are after is people who will challenge us constructively," said CIA deputy director Robert Gates, "offer us a different perspective, who will stir up the pot a bit and who will help us consider all points of view, particularly the unorthodox."